

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Wayne Bailey on 12/10/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 11, line 8, after "said predetermined storing means", add "by use of watermark embedding means,"

Claim 13, line 9, after "said predetermined storing means", add "by use of watermark embedding means,"

Claim 17, line 1, replace "A program product, stored on a recording medium" with "A computer program stored on a computer readable medium"

Claim 18, line 1, replace "A program product, stored on a recording medium" with "A computer program stored on a computer readable medium"

Response to Amendment

2. The amendment and written response filed 09/10/2008 has been entered and considered.
3. Claims 1-2, 5-6, 9-10, 12, 14-16 and 19 have been cancelled.
4. Claims 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13 and 17-18 have been amended.
5. Claims 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13 and 17-18 are pending.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks, filed 09/10/2008, with respect to claims 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13 and 17-18 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13 and 17-18 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13 and 17-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Independent claims 3-4, 7-8, 11, 13 and 17-18 are allowed based upon convincing arguments presented in the remarks dated 09/10/2008.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tom Y. Lu whose telephone number is (571)272-7393. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Werner can be reached on (571)-272-7401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Tom Y Lu/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624